# Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

## Plan for 2018-19

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Government of Saskatchewan

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# Statement from the Minister

*The Honourable Gene Makowsky*

*Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport*

I am pleased to present the Parks, Culture and Sport Plan for 2018-19.

Government Direction and Budget for 2018-19 is focused on keeping Saskatchewan On Track by controlling spending, delivering high quality services for Saskatchewan people, keeping our economy strong, and returning to balance in 2019-20.

The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport is committed to contributing to the high quality of life in Saskatchewan. This will be achieved through funding and support for the heritage, culture, sport and recreation sectors, as well as investment in infrastructure and offering high quality visitor services and programs within Saskatchewan's provincial parks and at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM).

Programs, including a new equipped camping program called 'Camp Easy', will launch in 2018 to enable younger generations, newcomers and those new to camping to enjoy the many benefits provincial parks have to offer. New markets will be reached through these programs and through an enhanced social media and marketing strategy for Saskatchewan parks.

As a step toward improving accessibility for people experiencing disabilities, beach wheelchairs were introduced in provincial parks at the beginning of the 2017 season. Following a surge of positive feedback and demand, the number of beach wheelchairs available for use doubled to ten by August. The beach wheelchairs are free for park visitors and can be made available in any provincial park.

With a return to base capital funding for provincial parks in 2018-19, the Ministry will make progress in the areas of public facing facilities, roads and water infrastructure. We will provide new, high-quality facilities that support current and future visitor needs, and we will continue to work towards making the parks accessible for all visitors.

Three major projects were undertaken at the RSM in 2017-18 including a new elevator, a new fully accessible washroom and WiFi for improved accessibility and visitor experiences. 2017-18 visitation at the RSM was on par with the surge in visitation experienced in 2016-17 despite construction for much of the year; new exhibits, educational and entertaining events and a growing social media following contribute to the strong visitation trend. This May, a new temporary exhibit entitled ZOOM will open and is sure to draw citizens and tourists alike.

Our ministry will maintain the amount of funds available to communities to increase quality of life through sport, culture and recreation; the Ministry looks forward to co-hosting the first ever national forum on the Framework for Recreation in Canada from May 8-10, 2018; and, we are committed to increasing awareness and appreciation for our province's heritage.

Our progress will be reported on in the 2018-19 annual report.

# Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to keeping the province On Track through prudent fiscal management. We will succeed by spending wisely, supporting economic growth, and ensuring services are sustainable.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

**Saskatchewan's Vision**

*"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."*

**Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people**

**Meeting the challenges of growth**

**Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people**

**Delivering responsive and responsible government**

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2018-19 annual reports.

# Operational Plan

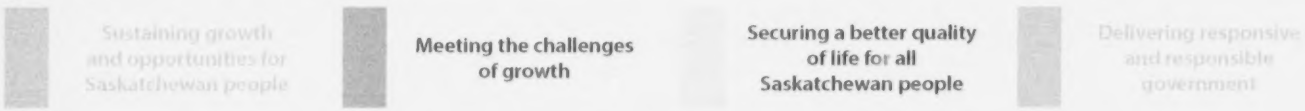
## Mandate Statement

The Ministry's strategic focus is on quality of life and economic growth. The Ministry works with diverse groups and communities to enhance the province's cultural, artistic, recreational and social life; to promote excellence in the arts, culture, heritage and sport; and, to support a vibrant and growing arts and cultural community. The Ministry manages and enhances Saskatchewan's provincial parks system, conserves ecosystems and cultural resources, and provides recreational and interpretive opportunities for park visitors.

## Mission Statement

Contribute to Saskatchewan's high quality of life, instill pride and enhance economic growth through management of the Saskatchewan provincial parks system, the provision of arts, culture, recreation, sport, and tourism opportunities, and through stewardship of provincial heritage resources.

## Government Goals


Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people
Meeting the challenges of growth
Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people
Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: investing in effective infrastructure to support economic growth and improved quality of life, and strengthening tourism opportunities and improving Saskatchewan's parks.

## Ministry Goal

Provide high quality visitor experiences

### Strategy

Invest in infrastructure to meet client demands

#### Key Actions

- Use provincial population and camper research and best practices in asset management to help inform and prioritize investments in provincial parks
- Respond to growing park visitor demands for camping, recreational and cultural opportunities by enhancing park infrastructure, such as upgrades to campgrounds, service centres, boat launches and trails

### Strategy

Enhance visitor programs and service delivery

#### Key Actions

- Develop a methodology based on best practice information from other jurisdictions to capture and report on visitation in provincial parks
- Conduct citizen research to better inform our programs and services
- Attract new visitors to the provincial parks through new and targeted initiatives
- Improve customer service (both in-person and online) to meet visitor expectations/needs
- Work with the private sector to facilitate renewal/expansion and development of new recreational services in parks
- Create natural and safe public spaces within core areas of the provincial parks

- Proclaim a new provincial park in the Porcupine Hills area and initiate a management plan for the new park
- Revitalize exhibits, programming and infrastructure at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) and T.rex Discovery Centre

## Performance Measures

**Visitation in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks**

Target: Measure to be developed

**Satisfaction with Saskatchewan provincial parks visit**

Target: Maintain visitor satisfaction with Saskatchewan provincial parks visits at 89 per cent for 2018-19

**Number of visitors to the RSM (based on a five-year average)**

Target: Increase the number of visitors to the RSM to a five-year average of 116,000 by March 31, 2019

**Number of visitors to the T.rex Discovery Centre (based on a five-year average)**

Target: Increase the number of visitors to the T.rex Discovery Centre in Eastend to a five-year average of 7,800 by March 31, 2019

## Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

**Meeting the challenges of growth**

**Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people**

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth:* improving Saskatchewan's parks and helping to build a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people.

## Ministry Goal

Protect Saskatchewan's park lands and heritage

## Strategy

Improve conservation and management of heritage sites

### Key Actions

- Increase the number of provincial heritage properties protected under legislation
- Maintain and develop provincial heritage databases for public and internal use as well as planning and development purposes
- Provide regulatory, advisory and capacity-building services to assist property owners, land developers and communities

## Strategy

Improve the preservation and management of heritage collections

### Key Actions

- Continue to upgrade storage, cataloguing and digitization of collections at the RSM
- Complete an inventory and risk assessment of heritage assets located within provincial parks

## Strategy

Improve the health of provincial park ecosystems

### Key Action

- Improve the quality and protection of grasslands and forests within the provincial parks system

## Performance Measures

**Number of Provincial Heritage Property designations**

Target: Increase the number of Provincial Heritage Property designations from 52 to 54 by March 31, 2019

**Number of collections stored in modern cabinets/containers**

Target: Add five (5) new modern storage cabinets for collections by March 31, 2019

**Reduction in non-native plant species coverage on treated areas per year**

Target: Reduce the percentage of non-native plant species coverage on treated areas per year by 60 per cent

**Number of forested hectares treated by either mechanical harvesting or prescribed burns per year in provincial parks**

Target: Treat 400 forested hectares of provincial park land in 2018-19 to promote forest regeneration

## Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

**Meeting the challenges of growth**

**Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people**

**Delivering responsive and responsible government**

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: providing Saskatchewan residents the opportunity to enjoy and participate in a broad and diverse range of cultural, recreational and sport activities, and ensure fiscal responsibility of government.

## Ministry Goal

Connect citizens to culture, heritage, sport and recreation

## Strategy

Increase engagement, inclusion and access

### Key Actions

- Invest in Creative Saskatchewan to bring our province's creative talent and cultural products to market
- Invest in the Saskatchewan Arts Board to enrich community well-being, diversity and artistic prosperity through the arts
- Support community investments through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund and the Community Initiatives Fund to strengthen the capacity of communities to deliver quality programs and services
- Continue partnerships to reduce barriers to participation in sport, culture and recreation

## Strategy

Increase knowledge and awareness

### Key Actions

- Implement heritage communication initiatives to raise public awareness and promote the value of conserving cultural heritage
- Promote discoveries made by RSM researchers and increase knowledge of, and public interest in, Saskatchewan's natural history and Aboriginal cultures through research at the RSM
- Partner with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association to co-host a 2018 Framework for Recreation in Canada Forum

## Strategy

Support the capacity and accountability of government-funded organizations

### Key Action

- Work with government-funded agencies to develop performance measures

## Performance Measures

**Amount of funds available to grant through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation to support community sport, culture and recreation opportunities**

Target: Maintain the amount of funds available to communities to increase quality of life through sport, culture and recreation

**Number of communities, First Nations, and sport, culture and recreation organizations directly funded through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation**

Target: Maintain the number of beneficiaries to ensure wide distribution of funding across the province

**Public awareness of the importance of Heritage Conservation**

Target: Expand social media reach and engagement on heritage issues and opportunities

**Research funding received by RSM researchers**

Target: Institute tracking of annual research funding accessed for the purpose of setting incremental growth targets

## Performance Indicators

**Total culture GDP in Saskatchewan**

Increase the total culture GDP in Saskatchewan

**Total employment from the production of arts and culture products in Saskatchewan**

Increase total employment from the production of arts and culture products in Saskatchewan

# Highlights

2018-19 Budget Highlights:

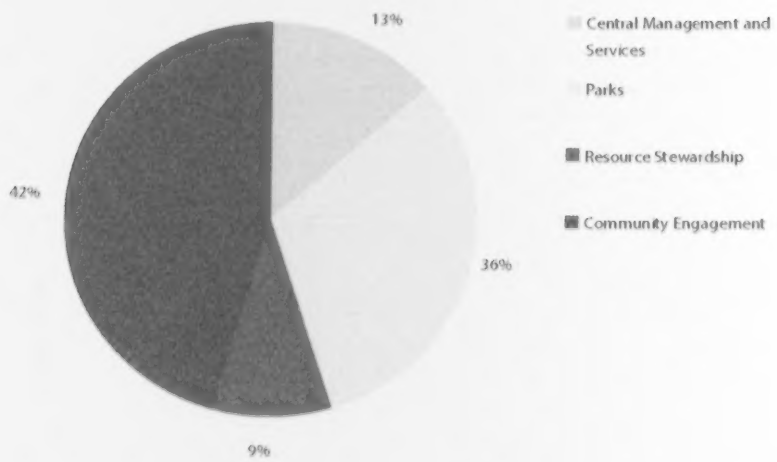
- The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport aligns with government's plan to invest in the services, programs and infrastructure that Saskatchewan people value – today and into the future.
- The Ministry continues to fund and support our partners and stakeholders in promoting the positive benefits of arts, culture, sport, recreation and heritage in Saskatchewan. These sectors will see continued investment in 2018-19 with no change to funding levels.
- The Ministry operates provincial parks and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM). Strong visitation and high visitor satisfaction as a result of excellent programming and improved facilities is an enduring trend at the RSM and our provincial parks.
- After two years of fiscal restraint, the Ministry budget will return to base capital funding with a $9.5 million investment in government-owned capital in provincial parks. This is an increase of $4.45 million or 88.1 per cent from $5.05 million in 2017-18. This investment in parks capital projects is to ensure visitor and employee safety, and continued high quality visitor experiences.

# Financial Summary

| 2018-19 Estimates | (in thousands of dollars) |
|---|---|
| Central Management and Services | 9,183 |
| Parks | 25,379 |
| Resource Stewardship | 6,409 |
| Community Engagement | 29,132 |
| **Ministry Operations Appropriation** | **70,103** |
| Capital Asset Acquisitions | (9,500) |
| Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment | 4,637 |
| **Ministry Expense** | **65,240** |

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry Spending by Key Program Area




## For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/parks-culture-and-sport